DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 471 110 SO 034 443

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TITLE First Teacher-Training Seminar on Civic Education for Teachers from the Chechen Republic (Pyatigorsk, Russian Federation, November 3-9, 2000). Education for Democratic Citizenship, 2001-2004.
INSTITUTION Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France).
REPORT NO DGIV/EDU/CIT-2001-36
PUB DATE 2001-09-24
NOTE 14p.
AVAILABLE FROM Council of Europe, F67075 Strasbourg, Cedex, France. Tel: 33-3-88-41-20-00; Web site: http://www.coe.int. For full text: http://www.coe.int/ T/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Education/E.D.C/ Documents_and_publications/.
PUB TYPE Collected Works - Proceedings (021) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS
DESCRIPTORS *Citizenship Education; *Democracy; Educational Objectives; Foreign Countries; *Professional Development; Seminars; Teacher Education; Thematic Approach
IDENTIFIERS *Russia

ABSTRACT

A seminar was held in November 2001 for 11 teachers of the Chechen Republic. The objectives of the seminar were: (1) presentation of the textbook "Civic Education" to the teachers and educational staff; (2) introduction in methodology and the matter of civic education; (3) working out of active and interactive methods of work in the sphere of civic education; and (4) reintegration of teachers of the Chechen Republic into the European and Russian educational spheres. This report chronicles the activities of the five days of the seminar. The report identifies the following themes of the seminar based on each day's objective: (1) "Teaching of Democracy in Civil Society"; (2) "Culture of Peace, Human Rights, Democracy Are Foundations of Civic Education"; (3) "Anticipation and Resolution of Conflicts Good Conduction of Negotiations"; (4) "Democratization of School Life, Civic Education and Intersubject Integration"; and (5) "Active and Interactive Methods in Civic Education." The report cites four important results of the seminar; gives six recommendations from the experts; and lists 15 textbooks and educational supplies transferred to the Chechen teachers. Appended is a participant list. (BT)

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ED 471 110

Strasbourg, 24 September 2001

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP 2001-2004

First Teacher-training Seminar on Civic Education for Teachers from the Chechen Republic, 3-9 November, 2000, Pyatigorsk, Russian Federation

SO 034 443

Report by Olga Kishenkova

DGIV/EDU/CIT (2001) 36

Council of Europe
F67075 Strasbourg Cedex

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Introduction

The seminar was held for the teachers of the Chechen Republic. 11 teachers and representatives of the school authorities from different areas of the Chechen Republic including those living in Grozny, Gudermes and Schali arrived to take part in the seminar.

Publishing House "Drofa" took part as a cosponsor of the seminar by transferring 20 sets of new textbooks on History and Social Science to schools of the Chechen Republic without any compensation.

The Seminar Objectives and Tasks:

- presentation of textbook "Civic Education" to the teachers and educational staff. The present textbook was prepared in the framework of the Council of Europe Education for Democratic Citizenship Project (EDC) and edited by I. Voskresenskaya and I. Froumin.
- introduction in methodology and matter of civic education;
- working-out of active and interactive methods of work in the sphere of civic education;
- reintegration of teachers of the Chechen Republic into the European and Russian Educational spheres.

The seminar was held according to the logic of the "Civic Education" course. At first, the matter and methodological foundations of the civic education, as well as the basic conceptions of the course were specified, namely: democracy, civil rights, human rights, culture of peace, nonviolence, tolerant consciousness. Then, the active and interactive methods of teaching the course, including the group classes, role-playing and business games, training procedures, problem resolution, "round table discussions", "brainstorming" and other methods were presented and worked upon. Much attention was paid to the psychological training on overcoming the conflicts, to the discussion on democratization of the school environment. Each module of the textbook "Civic Education" was presented and commented on by its authors I. Froumin, A. Ioffe, A Tubelski, P. Sergomanov. Additional modules were worked out by the other highly-qualified specialists-experts - T. Bolotina, O. Kishenkova, A. Gerasimov.

Opening of Seminar

The seminar was opened by a greeting speech made by the Administrator of the Council of Europe, A. Garabagiu. In her greeting speech A. Garabagiu focused on the seminar objectives and tasks. In her speech she underlined interest of the Council of Europe in raising awareness about human rights, culture of peace and non-violence, in forming the tolerant consciousness, particular in schools of the Chechen Republic.

I.D. Froumin presented the Council of Europe Education for Democratic Citizenship Project. During his report he specified that the citizen education task was of great importance for the whole world, especially for Russia going through a difficult period in its historical development. I.D. Froumin remarked that in spite of all the difficulties, the Russian citizens had obtained a possibility to express themselves in various spheres of their life. He added that the responsibility of the Russian people for their destinies and the destinies of other people had greatly increased. I.D. Froumin underlined the urgent need to develop the civic educational system in the Chechen Republic as one of the important mechanisms of overcoming the crisis. He also spoke about the need to set-up a constructive dialogue between all the sides interested in stopping the Chechen tragedy.

During his report A. Gerasimov, a psychologist, also paid attention to the actuality of the civic education. He underlined the importance of the present seminar as a remarkable step in restoration of cooperation between the educational system of the Chechen Republic and the educational system of the Russian Federation.

The First Day of the Seminar. Theme: "Teaching of Democracy in Civil Society".

The Director of Centre of Civic Education of Moscow T. Bolotina spoke about the main stages of development of the civic education in the Russian Federation, the most meaningful schools and projects in the sphere of civic education. She presented the main textbooks and educational materials paying particular attention to the textbooks prepared by the researchers of the Centre. The contribution of the Council of Europe to the development of the civic education in Russia, as well as the actuality of the "Civic Education" course elaborated under the

aegis of the Council of Europe were specified in her speech. ***After the report of T. Bolotina, the "State of Civic Education in the Russian Federation"*** discussion was carried on.

The Chechen teachers - participants of the seminar - underlined a problem on non-correspondence of the real situation on human rights in the Chechen Republic with the international and Russian documents on human rights. During the exchange of opinions the seminar participants made a conclusion that the civic education is of particular importance, especially in such a region as Chechnya. It is mandatory to teach both children and grown-ups how to protect their human rights by using the civilized methods only. During the discussion a proposal on elaboration of a special educational supply-module on civic education for the Chechen schools was made by the seminar participants.

As a result of the discussion, the seminar participants carried out a constructive dialogue and coordinated some of their positions.

"The aquarium" business game was led by T. Bolotina and A. Ioffe .
The experts and teachers were divided into two groups and acted as project elaborators and project evaluators. The game was played by using the "round table" discussion. The game participants were to argue their answers to the following questions: "Should Russia have its own national-state idea?" "If so, what particular idea should Russia have?"

Concluding from the "round table" discussion as a whole, T.V. Bolotina drew the participants attention to the fact that the nation-state idea of Russia should have such components as non-violence, culture of peace and international cooperation. A.V. Gerasimov proposed to formulate the nation-state idea of Russia as follows: "Via international tolerance and cooperation to the civilized future of Russia". This proposal was accepted as a the main result of the discussion.

The ***"Matter of Civic Education" project-game*** was carried out after the break.
Summing-up of the day results.

The seminar organizers and participants specified that during the day they had learnt a lot about civic education, the Chechen teachers together with the experts had participated in active forms of the work, games and training procedures; an atmosphere of cooperation, coordinated action and psychological rehabilitation had been created, the main methodological and matter components of the civic education had been worked out.

The Second Day of the Seminar. Theme: " Culture of Peace, Human Rights, Democracy - are Foundations of Civic Education"

A.H. Ioffe made an introduction speech, during which he specified that the character and methods of cooperation of people with each other were the basis of the process taking part in a society. He said that in a society where people were ready to cooperate with each other they would be able to achieve the set objectives and tasks more efficiently and quickly. Then, the "Culture of Peace, Non-Violence, Tolerant Consciousness" group lesson was carried out and it was headed by T. Bolotina. The last part of the present group lesson was based on the discussion on the development of democracy in Russia. The discussion was led by O. Kishenkova.

During the discussion the following positions were cleared: Democracy should not be considered as a chaos and doing everything without any permission. Democracy is an order based on precise and accurate observing the laws by all people. Democracy is an order based not on fear and violence, but on free access to any information, wide level of knowledge, respect of human's dignity. The Russian democracy is very unripe, and this unripeness is giving birth to an effect of devaluation of democratic values in the conscience of the Russian people.

After the break a lesson was carried out by A.N. Tubelski.

The seminar participants got acquainted with A.N. Tubelski, one of the most interesting innovator-teachers in Russia.

A.N. Tubelski talked about the Self-Determination School created by him in Moscow. The "School is a legal area" idea was justified. He said that an atmosphere of democracy should be created and human rights should be observed at school, otherwise all talks on such values would be useless.

Summing-up of the day results.

The Chechen teachers suggested an idea that if one didn't feel as a citizen in the street, one should create an atmosphere of democracy and observe human rights at least at school. The teachers were very much interested in the lesson, the active forms and methods of work, and practical orientation of the civic education course.

The Third Day of the Seminar. Theme: "Anticipation and Resolution of Conflicts. Good Conduction of Negotiations"

The main issue discussed during this day was conflict resolution.

The first lesson was carried out by A.M. Gerasimov - a psychologist and conflictologist. The lesson was performed in the form of an interview including the resolution of a problematic situation. The attention of the participants was attracted to interaction and mutual influence of micro- and macro-spheres on the educational process at school.

The next lesson for working-out the theme was the lesson performed by P. Sergomanov. It was the business-game: "Can You Solve Conflicts?" As a result of the lesson, the teacher formulated the main principles of conflict resolution, namely: getting maximum information on the conflict situation and its sides, procedure of negotiations, arrangement of a compromise.

The performance of the "Flight to the Moon" business-game was the active part of the lesson.

The garne aim was to work out the negotiating procedures and conflict resolution. The result of the performed business-game was as follows: all captains came to a compromise, they found a cooperative solution and demonstrated a constructive and useful information exchange. All participants expressed their positive attitudes towards the suggested methodology.

The Fourth Day of the Seminar. Theme: "Democratization of School Life", "Civic Education and Intersubject Integration"

At this day of the seminar A.N. Tubelski performed the lesson in the form of a pedagogical council devoted to the democratization

of the school micro-sphere as an important factor of forming the civic position of a child.

The proposals on democratization of interschool sphere, i.e. elaboration of school regulations reflecting the interests of all participants of the school process, creation of school self-management authorities - School Councils - were put forward. The next lesson was carried out by O. Kishenkova. The lesson topic was: "We Select a Political Leader".

The lesson was devoted to working-out the number of active methods in civic education - group work, solution of problems, discussion.

The next part of the lesson was devoted to forming the collective portrait of a leader whom present Russia was waiting for (each of the participants had to name three positions). The participants paid attention to personal qualities of a leader such as honesty, decency, ability for strategic thinking, foresight and prudence in taking decisions, responsibility, educational level, competence, tolerance, intelligence, will-power and ability for creative work in the political sphere, etc. The discussion of the leader portrait arose great interest and activity of the participants. The role of a leader is traditionally of great importance for Russia, because in this country the personification of power is great and a lot depends on the person who leads the country, on his political will.

At the end of the lesson the group continued their discussion, focusing on such issues as: "The Leader and his Team. The Woman Leader. Role of Leaders in Modern World".

Summing-up of the day results.

The seminar participants showed their positive attitudes towards demonstrated forms and methods of work in the sphere of civic education. The suggested topics were of great interest. The teachers said that they were ready to use the suggested topics and interactive teaching methods in their future work. The experts transferred the methodological educational materials to the methodological laboratory in Grozny for their further spreading among the Chechen teachers.

The Fifth Day of the Seminar. Theme: "Active and Interactive Methods in Civic Education"

This day was the final one in the course of the seminar. The aim of the day was to summarize all the methods which had been shown.

The lesson performed by A. Ioffe was an introduction to the issue of interactivity. He introduced the classification of methods used in civic education. During further discussion the participants came to the conclusion that all the methods could and should be used depending on the problems under consideration.

Ms O. Kishenkova carried out a presentation on the political analysis methods. The participants were further engaged on an exercise where they analysed the Programme Requirements of the Russian Federation's political parties.

Then a method of performance of a political examination "Analysis of Program Requirements of Political Parties of Modern Russia" was shown to the participants of the seminar. The lesson was carried out by O. Kishenkova.

The next example of using active methods was demonstrated by T.V. Bolotina who performed the following game: "Human Rights and their Reflection in the Mass Media".

After the lesson, the results were discussed and the following proposals were made:
- to prepare and distribute information materials containing the texts of the Universal Declaration, European Charter on Social Rights, Constitution of the Russian Federation, Documents on Human Rights. These papers are practically absent at schools of the Chechen Republic; (the material should be prepared for the next seminar by the seminar organizers);
- to organize in the Chechen schools a constant work with the material on human rights in Russia, published in the mass media.

At the end of the seminar A.N. Tubelski presented the elaboration of interschool regulations in the School of Self-Determination, Moscow.

Conclusion of the Seminar. Summing-up of the Results.

The participants anonymously completed a questionnaire. They were invited to answer the following three questions:
- Was the main objective of the seminar- familiarization with the "Civic education" course reached?
- What did you like in the seminar and what issues were you interested in?
- What are your wishes for the future?

The seminar participants expressed their opinions that the seminar had achieved its aim and had been held at a high substantial and methodological level. Not one of the seminar working days were spent in vain, without any result. A highly-qualified level of all the experts invited to carry out the seminar by the Council of Europe was marked by all the participants. The importance of such issues as the democratization of the school area, resolution of conflicts was also specified. The common wish of all the participants was to continue the seminar work by all means and to preserve the available expert staff. The teachers could see a possibility of their work on developing the civic education system in Chechnya.

In addition to the above mentioned questionnaires, the seminar results were orally discussed. The teachers proposed to perform the further seminars permitting to return the Chechen teachers to the educational area of Europe and Russia. The Chechen teachers specified that now they would be able to work with the children, their parents and administrative officials in the sphere of development of the civic education more freely and confidently. It was also noted that the seminar would render assistance in restoration of the educational structure itself in the Chechen Republic. The high level of selection of experts carrying out the seminar was specified too. The seminar itself was a real experience in building tolerance in the educational sphere. A possibility of organizing similar seminars in the Chechen Republic was discussed.

T.V. Bolotina suggested to create project-testing schools in Chechnya and exchange information with them.

The experts notified their readiness to write a series of articles on the results of the seminar; the latter should be published in the mass media. They also notified their readiness to promote the work on restoration of the educational system in Chechnya.

All the experts and participants of the seminar expressed their gratitude to the Council of Europe for its tremendous work on organizing the present seminar and were sure that the seminar results should be considerable and constructive.

The seminar's important results:

1. Conditions for the psychological rehabilitation of the Chechen teachers were created.
2. A constructive dialogue on the specific features of the content and methods of civic education in the Chechen Republic was initiated.
3. The objective of democratization and humanization of the school micro sphere as a way of forming the civic consciousness and civic position was set.
4. The working-out of the active and interactive methods of the civic education was started.

The experts recommendations:

1. To continue the work of the seminar by all means.
2. To widen the number of the seminar participants at the expense of the teachers and administrative officials of schools; the latter will make it possible to increase the efficiency of introduction of new experience.
3. To prepare special modules on civic education for the Chechen schools.
4. To prepare a series of publications for the "Teacher's Newspaper" and "Science of Civil Rights" newspaper.
5. To pay particular attention in the courses of the civic education in Russia to international cooperation, tolerance, respect of traditions of different peoples of Russia.
6. To organize the work on overcoming the "Chechen syndrome" in the consciousness of the Russian people.

Given below is the list of textbooks and educational supplies transferred to the Chechen teachers:

1. "Civic Education", Teacher's book;
2. O. Kishenkova " The Basic Knowledge on Civic Rights", textbook for the 9th form, "Drofa", 1998.
3. T. Chernikova "History of Russia. IX - XIV Centuries", textbook for the 6th form, "Drofa", 2000.
4. T. Chernikova "History of Russia. XVI-XVIII Centuries",

textbook for the 7th form, "Drofa", 2000.
5. V. Lyashenko "History of Russia, XIX Century", textbook for the 8th form, "Drofa", 2000.
6. B. Pashkov "History of Russia, XX Century", textbook for the 9th form, "Drofa", 2000.
7. S. Burin "New History. Part I", textbook for the 7th form, "Drofa", 1999.
8. S. Burin "New History. Part 2", textbook for the 8th form, "Drofa", 1999.
9. A. Nikitin "Social Science. Introduction", Part I and Part II, textbooks for the 8th and 9th forms, "Drofa", 2000.
10. A. Nikitin. Methodical supplies for the textbooks.
11. Experimental educational supplies for the 10th and 11th forms on the course "Social Science. Basic Knowledge", modules "Social Philosophy. Introduction", "Anthropology. Introduction", "Economic Science. Introduction", prepared by T.V. Bolotina, A.N. Ioffe, V.N. Lebedeva, O.V. Kishenkova, T.A. Karadje.
12. Methodical supplies prepared by O.V. Kishenkova on the topics: "We Select a Political Leader", "Political Parties in Modern Russia", "I am an Elector".
13. Methodical supplies prepared by A.N. Tubelski "School is a Legal Sphere".
14. Methodical supplies prepared by P. Sergomanov "Ways of Resolution of Conflict Situations".
15. "Civic Education" , materials of the international project. Sib. 2000

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

a) Council of Europe Secretariat:
- Angela Garabagiu, Administrator, Division for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

b) Academy for Upgrading of Professional Standards and Retraining of Educators (APKRO), Moscow, and its regional institute in Stavropol (SIPKRO):
- Alexander Gerassimov, Vice Rector, Professor in Psychology
- Tatiana Bolotina, Director of the Civic Education Centre under the APKRO
- Iuriy Lobeiko, Rector of the Stavropol Institute for Upgrading of Professional Standards and Retraining of Educators (SIPKRO)
- Andrei Ioffe, civic education expert, author of a number of manuals on civic education for the grades 7 to 9 of the secondary school, assistant-professor at the Civic Education Chair of the APKRO, one of the authors of the Council of Europe Civic Education Handbook
- Olga Kishenkova, civic education expert, author of a number of manuals on civic education for the grades 5 to 9 of the secondary school, assistant-professor at the Civic Education Chair of the APKRO

c) NPO "School of Self-Determination", Moscow:
- Alexander Tubelski, Director, civic education expert, one of the authors of the Council of Europe Civic Education Handbook

d) The World Bank, Moscow office:
Isak Froumin, civic education expert, one of the authors and editor of the Council of
Europe Civic Education Handbook

e) Kransoyarsk State University:
- Pavel Sergomanov, Head of the Psychology chair, expert on conflict resolution, one of the authors of the Council of Europe Civic Education Handbook

f) Participants in the seminar from the Chechen Republic:
- Abdurahman Kaimov, assistant to the Minister of Education of the Chechen Republic, history teacher, Grozniy
- Dauhan Idepova, member of the local Methodological Assistance Division, Science and Education Department, Grozniy
- Zara Musaeva, history and civics teacher, Liceum No. 1, Grozniy
- Oxana Ekimova, history teacher, school No. 27, Grozniy
- Belita Dilmaeva, head-teacher, teacher of history, school No. 58, Grozniy
- Mariam Ulubaeva, history teacher, School No. 3, Shali
- Malika Ejieva, history and civics teacher, school No. 35, Grozniy
- Lida Bakaeva, history teacher, school No. 7, Urus-Martan
- Zalina Lepieva, school No. 6, Urus-Martan
- Elita Tausieva, history and civics teacher, school No. 4, Gudermes
- Sherip Djabrailov, history and civics teacher, school No. 11, Grozniy

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